



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER AND FORT POLK  
6661 WARRIOR TRAIL, BUILDING 350  
FORT POLK, LOUISIANA 71459-5339

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

AFZX-CG

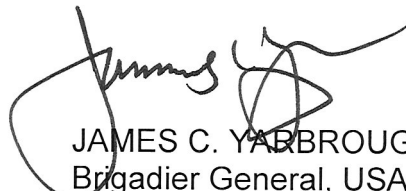
MAY 04 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Memorial Day Safety Message 2010

1. This year Memorial Day holiday will be observed on 31 May 2010. Formerly known as Decoration Day, this holiday commemorates the US men and women who died while in military service. Memorial Day weekend is also the unofficial start of the summer season and the third most dangerous holiday for travelers in Louisiana. Public swimming pools open, Family and friends gather for barbeques, the lakes and reservoirs are crowded with boaters and swimmers, and many people travel miles to visit gravesites and pay their respect. All of this activity can create dangerous conditions for you and your Family, which is why it is even more important to think of safety.
2. The US Department of Transportation announced last week that the overall traffic fatalities reported for 2009 reached their lowest level -- 33,963 -- since 1954. Fort Polk is following that trend. During the 2009 fiscal year there were 16 vehicle accidents resulting in 3 fatalities. So far this year Fort Polk has had 5 vehicle accidents and zero fatalities. As of 29 April 2010 there have been 220 fatality free days. Our success is due to your vigilance. Keep up the good work.
3. When driving, allow extra time for travel, wear your seat belt, follow the speed limit, make sure your car is mechanically safe, and ensure you inspect your vehicles. Don't drink and drive. If riding an ATV or motorcycle, wear your personal protective equipment. Obtain training. If you are planning to drive a boat, ensure you have taken the boater's safety course before you leave home. Plans change? Update your chain of command prior to implementation. Pine tree counseling speaks of this process.
4. The safety of our JRTC and Fort Polk Family is, as always, my highest priority. Adhere to the standards. The use of public transportation is highly encouraged. Don't take unnecessary risks. Leaders continue to be involved. **Stop, Think, Observe, Plan, and Proceed** safely, and continue to use the JRTC road hazards map and website <http://www.jrtc-polk.army.mil>. Contact the Safety office at 531-7527 for more information on summer safety. Have a safe and accident-free holiday and summer.

*Commanders + CSMS -  
Ensure our Soldiers return  
safely after enjoying this  
long holiday weekend -*

  
JAMES C. YARBROUGH  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

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